

Remarks

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed December 21, 2006, prior to preparing this response. Currently, claims 1-38 are pending in the application, wherein claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-14, 17-18 and 20 have been rejected and the remainder of the claims have been withdrawn from consideration consequent an Examiner-induced requirement for restriction. Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 have been amended, claims 39-44 have been added, and claims 3 and 21-38 have been cancelled with this paper. No new matter has been added with these amendments. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) as not showing the claimed feature of the door being configured to automatically close. Applicants maintain that the drawings, at Figures 16-17 do sufficiently illustrate the claimed door. For example, beginning at line 17 of page 16 it is stated,

Closure of the fan-shaped door 86 can be accomplished by pulling the door 86 to the right a slight distance until the reinforcement members 108, 110, 112 are re-oriented to the right of vertical. Once advanced beyond vertical, the weight of the fan-shaped door 86 causes the door 86 to automatically fan shut to the closed position.

Applicant asserts that the drawings of the fan-shaped door 86 sufficiently show this aspect of the claimed invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 8 are objected to for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to be directed to a collapsible structure including a door mechanism, while claim 8 is directed to the subcombination door. Examination consistent with this understanding is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Namely, the Office Action suggests that claim 11 is incomplete, as the claim and specification fail to explain how the door is automatically closed. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As mentioned above, the specification, beginning at line 17 of page 16, sufficiently teaches how the fan-shaped door is configured to automatically close. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12-14, 17, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sofie et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,484,739. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a collapsible structure including a door mechanism comprising a folding door positioned between first and second layers of material of a double-layered wall. Sofie at least fails to teach these limitations of claim 1. As claimed, the folding door is positioned between the two layers of material of the double-layered wall and configured to move between an open position and a closed position. Thus, the double-layered wall of the collapsible structure acts as a guide restraining movement of the folding door between the two layers of material.

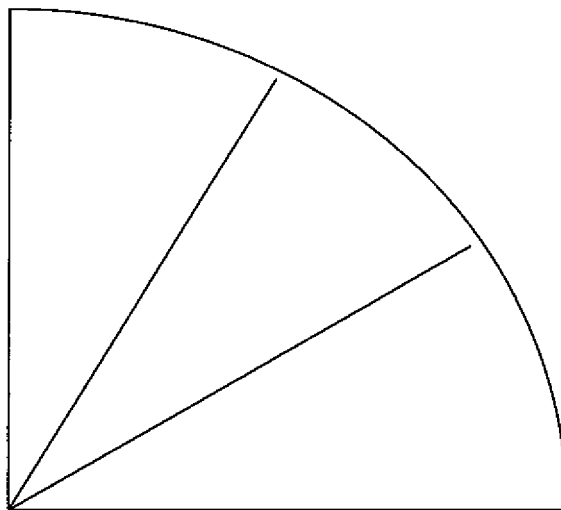
Upon a careful reading of the teachings of Sofie, it appears that the door of Sofie is suspended from a slide track such that the door may be opened and closed when urged side-to-side along the slide track. The door is not taught as being positioned between two layers of material of a double-layered wall of a collapsible structure.

Therefore, Sofie fails to disclose that which is claimed in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1, as well as those claims depending from claim 1, are believed patentable over Sofie. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 recites a door mechanism including a fan-shaped door. Applicant respectfully believes what is meant by the “fan-shaped” door has been misunderstood thus far in prosecution. It is the Applicant’s understanding that the Examiner has thus far interpreted “fan-shaped door” as being “capable of moving air”. See Office Action,

December 21, 2006, at page 5. This interpretation is not what is intended and clarification appears appropriate.

When describing the door as fan-shaped, the intention is to describe the door as having diverging segments radiating outward from a pivot point, such as when fanning a deck of playing cards or a peacock fanning its feathers. The following illustration depicts this understanding.



This is consistent with what is disclosed in the current application regarding the fan-shaped door illustrated at Figure 5. Therefore, this understanding of “fan-shaped door” is consistent with that reached by one of skill in the art in view of the usage of “fan-shaped door” throughout the current application.

This understanding is further evidenced by the added language of claim 8 stating “the fan-shaped door so characterized in that movement of the fan-shaped door between the open position and the closed position includes radial movement of the at least one reinforcement member pivoting about the attachment point.” Examination of the term “fan-shaped door” consistent with this understanding is respectfully requested.

In view of this understanding, Applicant maintains Sofie does not anticipate claim 8. Namely, Sofie fails to disclose a fan-shaped door including a flexible sheet of material having a curved edge and at least one reinforcement member extending across the flexible sheet of material from an attachment point toward the curved edge of the flexible sheet of material, the fan-shaped door so characterized in that movement of the fan-

shaped door between an open position and a closed position includes radial movement of the at least one reinforcement member pivoting about the attachment point.

Therefore, Sofie fails to disclose that which is claimed in claim 8. For at least this reason, claim 8, as well as those claims depending from claim 8, are believed patentable over Sofie. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sofie et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,484,739, in view of Imhoff et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,155,326. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. For at least to reasons above, Sofie fails to teach each and every limitation of claim 8, from which claim 11 depends from. Imhoff fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sofie. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established with the cited combination. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

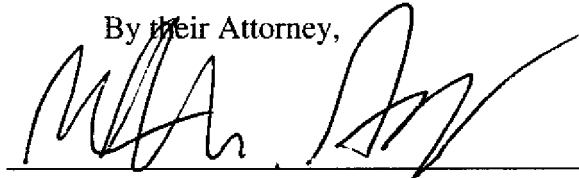
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne M. Goodwin et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: May 21, 2007



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